

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5790

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, NAC
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. USNATO 5260 DTG 261255Z SEP 75

1. REFTEL PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING STANDARDIZATION AT DECEMBER 1975 AND SPRING 1976 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. ON OCTOBER 23, UK DELEGATION OFFICER (NDAREP PERRY) CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER TO DISCUSS LONDON'S THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FIVE OPTIONS WHICH HE SAID UK HAD HEARD US WAS CONSIDERING. WE SAID A VARIETY OF PROCEDURAL PERMUTATIONS WERE UNDER DISCUSSION, BUT THAT WASHINGTON HAD NOT TAKEN A POSITION.

2. IN VIEW OF LIMITED PROGRESS BY NAC TO DATE, AND "CERTAINTY" THAT ONLY AN INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE BY DECEMBER, PERRY REPORTED THAT LONDON STRONGLY FAVORED USING AWACS EXAMPLE (OPTION A REFTEL). THIS WOULD HAVE DPC MINISTERS ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION WITH FRENCH VIEWS PROVIDED TO SYG LUNS FOR CONSIDERATION BY DEFENSE MINISTERS.

3. AS FOR THE SPRING 1976 MEETINGS, PERRY MADE IT CLEAR THAT
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UK WANTS ONLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE MASON TO REPRESENT UK IN NATO DISCUSSIONS OF STANDARDIZATION. THEREFORE, UK FAVORS NAC MEETING IN DEFENSE MINISTER SESSION (OPTION E, REFTEL). PERRY REPORTED THAT LONDON WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT

FRANCE'S DEFENSE MINISTER ATTENDING SUCH A MEETING, BELIEVING THAT IF FRANCE DID NOT VETO THIS PROCEDURE PARIS MIGHT INSTEAD CHOOSE TO BE REPRESENTED BY ITS PERMREP. PERRY INDICATED THAT LOCAL UK DELEGATION'S VIEW WAS NOT SO PESSIMISTIC AND UK DELEGATION WILL TRY TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO APPROACH FRANCE ON SUBJECT AT APPROPRIATE TIME AND, PERHAPS, THEN RAISE ISSUE AT A PERMREPS LUNCHEON. PERRY MENTIONED THAT COUNCIL MET IN DEFENSE MINISTER SESSION IN 1965 AND THIS PRECEDENT MIGHT PROVE USEFUL.

4. IF THIS OPTION WERE TO PREVAIL, PERRY EMPHASIZED UK VIEW THAT SPRING NAC DEFENSE MINISTER SESSION SHOULD FOLLOW DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING AFTER A SUITABLE BREAK, PREFERABLY OVERNIGHT, TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF BEING A GLORIFIED DPC. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE MORE PALATABLE TO FRANCE, UK BELIEVED.
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